

(Mr. FORTENBERRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SESTAK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SESTAK addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCHENRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### CAP-AND-TRADE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to join you this evening here in the Chamber and talk for a while about what I think a very interesting subject to many, many Americans. If they're not interested in it now, they will be rapidly as this issue develops here in Washington, D.C.

What we're talking about is, most specifically, the background on a thing that's called cap-and-trade or cap-and-tax. And "cap-and-tax" is probably a better name for it because what we're talking about is a very, very large tax increase that is to be justified because of the great danger, the imminent peril that is created by global warming—although that has now been called sometimes "climate change," or global warming, or other various names. And soon the Legislature is going to actually be doing the debating and the voting on this very, very large tax increase.

Now, the President promised people that there would be no one making \$250,000 or less who is going to get any tax increases. But, unfortunately, this tax increase hits all Americans; even the average household will be paying thousands of dollars more.

The President promised that nobody making \$250,000 or less was going to get any tax increases. Well, we have seen that is not true, and particularly with this cap-and-tax situation, the tax on all kinds of people in the country. In fact, every time you turn a light switch on, you would be paying a tax. So I don't think we can take the President seriously on that promise.

Now, the justification for this very large tax increase is the popular subject of global warming, or climate change, or whatever. And that is the general idea that mankind is making CO<sub>2</sub>—that's the product of burning something. When you burn something, the oxygen in the atmosphere combines with the fuel and it makes CO<sub>2</sub>. It's the bubbles in soda pop. So we drink CO<sub>2</sub>, as a matter of fact. And in a sense, the soda pop manufacturer is sequestering the CO<sub>2</sub> in bottles of soda pop and you are letting it loose when you open the can. Anyway, the theory is that CO<sub>2</sub> is the culprit, and therefore we have to reduce the amount of CO<sub>2</sub>. And so this tax is being justified to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> so the planet won't burn up. That's the fast version of it.

So what I thought I would do this evening is to give just a little bit of a historic perspective because sometimes when you go into one of these debates, it's interesting to take a look and see, you know, are we the first people that have ever been talking about this, or is there a historic perspective of some kind on it? And I found that the historic perspective here is somewhat amusing and kind of interesting. So I'm going to take you back to the year 1920. At that time, in 1920, the newspapers were filled with scientific warnings of a fast-approaching glacial age. So in 1920, the scientists were saying that the planet was going to get really cold, there was going to be glaciers running around all over, so we need to be prepared for very wintry weather because there are glaciers that are going to blow around. So that is 1920.

1930s; the predominant scientists at the time reversed themselves to the fact that in the near future there is going to be what they called "serious global warming." So from the twenties to the thirties, the scientists changed. In 1972, Time magazine cited numerous scientific reports of imminent "run-away glacial activities." So now we've gone from global warming to glacial activities again in 1972.

In 1975, Newsweek says, Scientific evidence of a great ice age, and we were being called to stockpile food, that maybe what we should be considering doing was melting the ice packs, the icecaps at the North and South Poles to try to stop this tremendous ice age that was coming in 1972 and 1975. But in 1976, the U.S. Government says the Earth is headed into some sort of mini-ice age.

□ 1830

So this was continued through the seventies, and now we've gone back to global warming.

So over a period of the last hundred years or so, the major scientists—at least the ones that were talking out on this subject—have reversed themselves three times. I think it gives us some cause to be a little cautious before we jump into a massive tax increase to deal with a problem that has been coming around for the last 100 years, either getting too hot or too cold.

Now there were statements made today that say that there is complete agreement that we have global warming and all of the major scientists all agree and the time for debate is over. Particularly, I'm quoting, in 1992, going back to '92, Al Gore made this statement, quote, Only an insignificant fraction of scientists deny the global warming crisis. The time for debate is over.

Let's do this quote again. 1992, Al Gore says, "Only an insignificant fraction of scientists deny the global warming crisis. The time for debate is over." Yet in that same year a Gallup poll said that 53 percent of scientists involved—these are the scientists that are involved in the climate change debates and questions—only 53 percent of them didn't agree that there was going to be global warming, 30 percent weren't sure, and only 17 percent believed that global warming had begun in the year 1992.

Moving closer to our own time period, just last year you have in The Wall Street Journal a report by an MIT professor, Richard Lindzen, says—this is his quote, There is no consensus on global warming.

Now when he made that statement, boy, did he get beat up. All the media and all kinds of people were all over him saying, that was a reckless thing to say that there's no consensus on the subject, which led him, after he'd taken a tremendous amount of political flak, to say that it seems that global warming is more of a political issue than it is a scientific or technical one. And that was the professor from MIT's opinion in that regard.

So that's just to try to give us a little bit of an introduction to obviously what is a controversial question. Even if global warming were widely believed to be true by scientists, then there are a whole series of other questions that have to be asked. Can we do anything about it? Should we pass a huge and massive tax increase? Is that necessary? So that's what we're going to talk about.

We're joined, as usual, by some really capable people that have taken some time to look into this issue, and I am absolutely delighted to introduce one of those to you now, and that is Congressman LATTA from Ohio.

Mr. LATTA. Congressman, thank you very much for hosting this extremely important Special Order tonight on cap-and-tax. It's an issue that I think every American had better learn about quickly.

I did a teletown hall last night, and we discussed it quite a bit because in my area we're hurting. Just to kind of give you a little bit of background on my area, according to the National Manufacturers Association, I represent the largest manufacturing district in the State of Ohio. Last summer I represented the ninth largest in Congress, but because of what's happened with the economy and jobs, I now represent the 13th largest manufacturing district in Congress.